UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

ACCESS SPECTRUM, LLC and ACCESS 220, LLC,)
Plaintiffs,)
v.) Case No. 08-cv-5755 (PAC)
EDWARD WHARTON, JANET GEISMAR, CATHRYN SHIVER, BRIAN P. SHIVER, DOUGLAS J. SHIVER, CHRISTOPHER R. SHIVER, INDUSTRIAL COMMUNICATIONS & ELECTRONICS, INC., AERWAV HOLDINGS, INC., AND RICHARD E. O'CONNELL, CHAPTER 7 TRUSTEE FOR THE ESTATE OF ROBERT SHIVER,	AUG 13 2008
Defendants.)

AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR INTERPLEADER

Plaintiffs, Access Spectrum, LLC ("Access Spectrum") and Access 220, LLC ("Access 220," and together with Access Spectrum, "Plaintiffs"), by and through their undersigned counsel, state as follows for their amended complaint against defendants Edward Wharton ("Wharton"), Janet Geismar ("Geismar"), Cathryn Shiver ("Shiver"), Brian P. Shiver, Douglas J. Shiver, Christopher R. Shiver, Industrial Communications & Electronics, Inc. ("ICE"), aerwav Holdings, Inc. ("aerwav Holdings"), and Richard E. O'Connell, chapter 7 trustee for the bankruptcy estate of Robert Shiver ("Trustee") (collectively, the "Defendants"):

NATURE OF THE ACTION AND RELEVANT BACKGROUND

By this Amended Complaint for Interpleader, Plaintiffs seek (a) the
 Court's determination of competing claims to the remaining balance due under a
 promissory note in the original principal sum of \$4,478,824 executed and delivered by

Case 1:08-cv-05755-PAC

Access 220, as maker, to defendant aerway Holdings, as payee; (b) the Court's determination that by and upon depositing the Note Proceeds (defined below) with the registry of the Court Plaintiffs have satisfied any and all obligations under and in respect of the Note, and are discharged and released from all liability related thereto; (c) an award of Plaintiffs' attorneys' fees and costs in bringing this action; and (d) to enjoin all suits, actions and proceedings concerning any Defendant's claims to the Note and/or the Note Proceeds. Access 220 has deposited the sum of Three Million Four Hundred Seventy Eight Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Four Dollars and No Cents (\$3,478,824.00), which represents the entire balance remaining due under the Note ("Note Proceeds"), with the Clerk of the Court in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1335.

- 2. Each of the Defendants has asserted competing claims and priority rights to all or a portion of the Note Proceeds. In the aggregate, the Defendants' claims exceed the amount of the Note Proceeds. Each of the Defendants' claims is discussed in greater detail below.
- 3. The Note was issued as part of the purchase price for Plaintiff's acquisition of certain spectrum band licenses and other assets ("Licenses") from aerway Holdings (then known as aerway, Inc.) and a related entity, aerway Spectrum Holdings, Inc. The Note was executed on August 27, 2002 in the original principal amount of \$4,478,824.
- 4. The terms of the Note were thereafter modified by amendments dated January 15, 2004 and October 26, 2005 (the "Amendments").
- 5. Pursuant to the Note, the original maturity date ("Maturity Date") was "the earlier to occur of (i) August 27, 2005 ("Fixed Maturity Date") and (ii) the date of

Page 3 of 10

consummation of a Change in Control," which is defined to include a "sale, transfer or assignment by Maker or any of its subsidiaries of substantially all of the consolidated assets of Maker and its subsidiaries to a person that is not [Access Spectrum LLC], any of its members or any of its or their respective Affiliates."

- 6. Pursuant to the Amendments, the Fixed Maturity Date was subsequently extended to February 27, 2012.
- 7. Plaintiffs have recently consummated a transaction pursuant to which the Licenses have been conveyed to a third party and are willing to concede for purposes of this proceeding that the Note has matured.
- 8. Interpleader is appropriate and necessary because the Note Proceeds are not sufficient to satisfy all of the Defendants' competing claims and assertions of priority. Accordingly, unless the competing claims and priority rights to the Note Proceeds are sorted out through the interpleader process, Plaintiffs face the risk of conflicting judicial decisions and double or multiple liability.
- 9. On June 26, 2008, Plaintiffs filed the initial Complaint in this action. This Amended Complaint is filed to add the Trustee as a party pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15(a). None of the Defendants has filed a responsive pleading as of the date of the amendment.

PARTIES JURISDICTION AND VENUE

The Plaintiffs

10. Plaintiff Access Spectrum and Plaintiff Access 220 are Delaware limited liability companies. At the time the Complaint was filed, the Note Proceeds which are

the subject of this action were located in Maryland. The Note Proceeds have since been deposited with the Clerk of this Court.

The Claimant-Defendants

- 11. Upon information and belief, Defendant Edward Wharton is a citizen of Florida, who resides in Davie, Florida.
- 12. Upon information and belief, Defendant Janet Geismar is a citizen of North Carolina, who resides in Greensboro, North Carolina.
- 13. Upon information and belief, Defendant ICE is a Massachusetts corporation with its principal place of business in Marshfield, Massachusetts.
- Upon information and belief, Defendant Cathryn Shriver is a citizen of
 New Jersey, who resides in Morristown, New Jersey.
- 15. Upon information and belief defendants Brian P. Shiver, Douglas J. Shiver and Christopher R. Shiver, the adult and minor children of Cathryn and Robert Shiver are citizens of New Jersey, who reside in Morristown, New Jersey.
- 16. Upon information and belief, aerway Holdings is a Delaware corporation, with no active ongoing business operations. According to records of the Delaware Office of the Secretary of State, the status of Defendant aerway Holdings is listed as "inactive." The last known business address of aerway Holdings was 915 Broadway, 18th floor, New York, New York.
- 17. Upon information and belief, Defendant Richard E. O'Connell is the chapter 7 trustee for the estate of Robert Shiver, whose bankruptcy is pending in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, Bankruptcy Case Number 07-11501-MG.

- 18. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction to grant relief in interpleader pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1335. The Note Proceeds at issue exceed \$500 in value. There are two adverse claimants of diverse citizenship. Plaintiffs bring this action of interpleader, and upon the Court's determination that they have satisfied all their obligations under the Note and are discharged from all liability thereunder, do not assert any interest in the Note Proceeds.
- 19. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1397 and 28 U.S.C. § 1391, venue is properly placed in the Southern District of New York because one or more of the defendants resides in this District.

DEFENDANTS' CLAIMS ASSERTED AGAINST NOTE PROCEEDS Defendants Wharton and Geismar

- 20. On information and belief, Defendants Wharton and Geismar hold a judgment in the amount of \$3,336,630.53 against Robert Shiver, the president and principal shareholder of Defendant aerway Holdings.
- 21. On or about January 1, 2007, Defendants Wharton and Geismar instituted a garnishment proceeding against Mr. Shiver, as judgment debtor, in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Maryland, Case No. 276929-V ("Maryland Garnishment Proceeding").
- 22. On February 6, 2007, Defendants Wharton & Geismar served a Writ of Garnishment upon the Plaintiffs in the Maryland Garnishment Proceeding, which directed Plaintiffs to hold any property of Mr. Shiver and of any company in which he has an ownership interest, including but not limited to aerway Holdings.
- 23. On March 8, 2007, Plaintiffs answered the Writ of Garnishment, noting in part that Mr. Shiver, the judgment debtor, was neither the payee nor the holder of the

Note and that Defendants Wharton and Geismar do not hold a judgment against the payee and holder, aerway Holdings.

- 24. On May 10, 2007, Mr. Shiver filed for personal bankruptcy in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York. As a result, the Maryland Garnishment Proceeding is currently stayed.
- 25. On information and belief, Defendants Wharton and Geismar assert priority claims to the Note and/or the Note Proceeds.

Defendant ICE

- 26. On information and belief, Defendant ICE holds a judgment against aerway Holdings and others in the amount of \$130,502.60.
- 27. On information and belief, on or about November 15, 2006, ICE filed a Motion to Obtain Equitable Relief to Reach and Apply Property of the Defendant Aerwav Holdings, Inc. in the Superior Court for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ("Massachusetts Superior Court"), Civil Action No. 2006-00375-B. The purpose of this motion was to attach any payments made by Access to aerwav Holdings under the Note and apply them to satisfy ICE's judgment.
- 28. On information and belief, on or about January 18, 2007, the Massachusetts Superior Court entered an Order on Plaintiff's Motion to Reach and Apply Pursuant to G.L. c. 233 § 86A, pursuant to which that court decreed that ICE "shall have the immediate right and remedy to reach and apply the right, title and interest of the Defendant Aerwav [sic] Holdings, Inc. . . . , as holder, in and to a certain Senior Promissory Note from Access 220, LLC . . . " The Order further provided that all

6

amounts due and payable to aerwav Holdings must first be paid to ICE to satisfy its judgment, plus interest and costs.

29. On information and belief, ICE asserts a priority claim to the Note and/or the Note Proceedings.

<u>Defendants Cathryn Shiver, Brian P. Shiver, Douglas J. Shiver, and</u> Christopher R. Shiver

- 30. On information and belief, Defendant Cathryn Shiver is Robert Shiver's former wife.
- 31. On information and belief, Mr. and Mrs. Shiver were divorced pursuant to a Final Judgment of Divorce entered in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division Family Part Morris County ("New Jersey Divorce Court"), Docket No. FM-14-1305-04, dated February 22, 2006.
- 32. On or about April 10, 2006, the New Jersey Divorce Court entered a Supplemental Final Judgment of Divorce annexing a Property Settlement Agreement ("PSA") between Cathryn Shiver and Mr. Shiver.
- 33. On information and belief, Defendant Cathryn Shiver asserts that she holds a priority interest in the Note and/or the Note Proceeds based on the proceedings in the New Jersey Divorce Court.
- 34. On information and belief, defendants Brian P. Shiver, Douglas J. Shiver and Christopher R. Shiver, the children of Cathryn and Robert Shiver, assert that they hold a property interest in the Note and/or the Note Proceeds.¹

7

¹ The PSA references a trust to be formed by Mr. Shiver to receive proceeds of the Note after, *inter alia*, satisfaction of aerway Holding's liens and liabilities. Mr. Shiver filed for chapter 7 bankruptcy on May 10, 2007. His amended bankruptcy schedules and statement of affairs do not disclose the existence of a trust.

Defendant aerway Holdings

35. Defendant aerway Holdings is the payee of the Note. As such, aerway Holdings is the party to whom the Note Proceeds would otherwise be paid unless the Court determines that the interests of the other Defendants, or other third parties, are superior to those of aerway Holdings.

Defendant Robert O'Connell, Trustee

- 36. Upon information and belief, Robert Shiver is the controlling shareholder of Defendant aerway Holdings.
- 37. Upon information and belief, the Trustee has asserted an interest in the Note and/or Note Proceeds based upon, *inter alia*, Mr. Shiver's interest in aerwav Holdings.
- 38. Upon information and belief, the Trustee has possession of the original Note pursuant to a Stipulation and Consent Order Between Bankruptcy Trustees and Cole, Schotz, Meisel, Forman & Leonard, P.A. Regarding Promissory Note entered by the New Jersey Divorce Court in the New Jersey Divorce Court proceeding.

COUNT 1: INTERPLEADER

- 39. Plaintiffs repeat and incorporate paragraphs 1 through 38 as if fully set forth herein.
- 40. The Defendants have made competing demands to the Note Proceeds, which in the aggregate exceed the amount of the Note Proceeds. As a result of these multiple claims, Plaintiffs are in doubt as to whom it should pay the Note Proceeds upon maturity of the Note.

- 41. By depositing the Note Proceeds into the registry of the Court and seeking discharge from further liability through the interpleader mechanism. Plaintiffs are not taking a position as to which of the claimants are entitled to the Note Proceeds or in what order of priority. Plaintiffs seek interpleader solely to enable them to satisfy their contractual obligations under the Note, the performance of which has been complicated by the multiplicity of claims to the Note Proceeds.
- 42. The competing and conflicting claims by the Defendants to the Note Proceeds have resulted in Plaintiffs being exposed to competing and inconsistent demands with respect to payment of the balance due under the Note.
- 43. Plaintiffs therefore request that the Defendants be required to interplead and resolve among themselves their rights, if any, to the Note Proceeds and that Plaintiffs be discharged from all liability arising out or relating to the Note and the Note Proceeds. Plaintiffs further request that the Defendants be restrained from continuing or instituting any action or proceeding against Plaintiffs for recovery of the Note Proceeds and that the Maryland Garnishment Proceeding be stayed in order to avoid the risk of conflicting judgments.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs request that this Court:

- Order all parties claiming any right, entitlement or interest to the a. Note or the Note Proceeds to interplead and resolve among themselves their rights, if any, to the Note and Note Proceeds, and consistent with the relief requested herein, discharge Plaintiffs from all liability under or related to the Note and Note Proceeds:
- b. Declare Plaintiffs' liability, if any, under the Note is limited to the Note Proceeds in the amount of \$3,478,824.00;

9

- Restrain the Defendants from instituting or continuing any action c. or proceeding against Plaintiffs for recovery of the Note or the Note Proceeds;
- d. Issue an injunction staying all actions or proceedings concerning any Defendant's claims to the Note and/or the Note Proceeds, including but not limited to the Maryland Garnishment Proceeding, the New Jersey Divorce Court proceedings and the Massachusetts Superior Court proceeding;
- Award Plaintiffs' their attorneys' fees and costs incurred in e. bringing this action, as appropriate;
 - f. Award such other and further relief as this Court may deem proper.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn E. Judell (12(10)) ANDREWS KURTH LLP 450 Lexington Avenue New York, NY 10017 (212) 850-2800

and

Valerie P. Morrison Dylan G. Trache WILEY REIN LLP 7925 Jones Branch Drive, Suite 6200 McLean, Virginia 22102

Attorneys for Plaintiffs Access Spectrum LLC and Access 220 LLC

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